

# Spot Checking

Food ★ Fun ★ Frolic  
By Bill Whitman



## Tempest is Fidgeting

So, friends, don't let it fidget too long! 'Cause even at this point, it's too long—but if you hurry you can still get your reservations nailed down for the upcoming holidays and take it from here, they're going to be hectic, for both the restaurateurs as well as the patrons.

For instance, lets take a long view from a short stance at what's going on—and for you — at the International Hotel on West Century Blvd!

The Christmas Dinners are going to be a real treat and at a real treat price! Turkey'll be served (with all the trimmings) in both the Hunt Room and the Penthouse Lounge from two in the afternoon 'til ten in the evening with the price tagged at \$4.50 in the former and a buck more in the latter.

This all happens in both rooms Monday, Dec. 25. So make it by early.

So you can see, the International Hotel'll be open and fully staffed, ready to serve you your Christmas dinner with elegance.

The Coffee Shop'll be open at six in the ayem (as per) 'til two the following ayem with the dinner menu presented from one 'til 9 p.m. This'll run you \$2.95.

Oh yeah, there'll be special kiddies servings in all dining rooms so keep it in mind if the kids are hungry. (WHA-A-A-! After all those goodies they got in their stockings from old St. Nick!!!)

The International has a kind of special thing for you, y'know! Like for example, if you should have a party—oh, say—eight or more—as sort of a treat for the visiting "fireman" (or cop—which ever) you can have the traditional bird served AND CARVED right at your table for five and a quarter in the Hunt Room or in the Penthouse Lounge for a dollar more per person. Well-I-I-I, don't forget, the Penthouse is higher! That is to say, it's a few stories higher — and it take a bit longer to get it to you and passes through many more operations!

But when it arrives at your table, it's the same as it would be as if you'd been sitting right outside the kitchen door. (And you know how you beef if the captain seats you in THAT seat!!!)

So anyway, it might be a good thing to keep in mind for the future (FUTURE!!! It's the 25TH!) if you're planning on dinner out on that day.

By the way, had lunch down there recently in the Hunt Room with a well known human being by the dubious name of Gene Greenwald and would like to comment here and now on a rarity! That is to say a man who "anticipates your needs."

The soup, for example, came before the second "ma-ronie" and Reggie Daverio our most efficient waiter (an Italian with an English accent) became quite disturbed about the whole thing. Wanted to take the soup back and



MELODIC PAIR . . . The Tepeyac Duo, entertaining each Thursday, Friday and Saturday nite at the Red Onion in Peninsula Center.

all stuff like that there but we assured him it was fine—we'd mix the two.

However, he wasn't convinced. Just a minute or two prior to the arrival of the entree, in comes another steaming bowl of soup (pea, and by the way, excellent!) was brought to our table with all kinds of apologies — completely unnecessary.

But there's the difference between a "waiter and a waiter"—Reggie takes pride in his profession—as well he should. It's a highly thought-of occupation, if properly performed and this one is a gentleman we'd wait for until a table in his "station" was open. It'd be worth it!

So much for the Hotel International! Said enough about them for this trip a round. Only one suggestion: make reservations — call 670-9000.

Well now, don't know. Could get into trouble with this one 'cause the release we received didn't have a date line on it and although we spend many delightful hours at The Matador Restaurant on West Pico, we can never be sure just how long an individual entertainer will be there.

Referring at this time to Juan Perrin who opened a limited engagement at this attractive West Side spot, "we're not quite sure exactly when he opened so can't tell you how long he'll be there.



SUGAR PLUM . . . Melissa Hayden guest stars in the role of Sugar Plum Fairy when the San Francisco Ballet presents five performances of the full-length "Nutmcracker" at Shrine Auditorium, Dec. 21, 22, and 23. Tickets are on sale at all Mutual Agencies.

no performance Dec. 24, 25, and 26, so parents, govern yourselves accordingly.

Received a beautifully embossed invite to an equally beautifully embossed preview of "Funny Girl" at the Riviera Hotel in Vegas for Tuesday the 19th. Sure hope to make this one 'cause you know who stars in it? It's Mimi Hines and Phil Ford along with Anthony George, which is quite a combine, you've got to admit. Mimi and Phil (first name basis?!?!?!?) are hosting a whole bunch of guys from the nearby Nellis Air Force Base so you've got to know these are good people.

This "Life of Fanny Brice" musical will open on the following nite for a three-month engagement in the Versailles Room. (Oh, come on, you don't SAY it . . . you TYPE it!)

Well, this is the first one to come in so far regarding the New Year's eve bit. It's Sam Failla's San Franciscan Restaurant and Cocktail Lounge on Sepulveda at Crenshaw in Torrance.

Sam says they're now accepting reservations for the galaest (THIS IS A WORD!) of New Year's Eve bashes. They had a swinger last year and there's a promise of an even better one this year. Never a cover, minimum or admission charge at the San Franciscan. And once again, this is to be an "open house" thing so nail down your space right now.

Y'know, it's still Johnny Hoover and his Henchmen nite for your dancing and listening pleasure. Might also add—your LOOKING pleasure 'cause Johnny has a feature these days — (or should say nites) Ivy "Sex on the Sax" Black and this one can't be tooled that thing, too. Don't you forget it. So when you can combine talent with all the other things she's got going for her, you've gotta know you'll be highly entertained at the San Franciscan.

Come early and partake of one of those wonderful specials that Chef Frank whips up. Like the Prime Rib of Beef, or the Top Sirloin Steak.

or even the Filet Mignon and all at extremely reasonable prices. They're daily specials there at the S.F.

The wild ones are due back, y'know! Following the current engagement of The Bill Plummer Freeway Trio at the Galley West Restaurant at the tip of Palos Verdes Peninsula, it'll be The Wilder Brothers and all their antics, horns and etc.

This could be almost called a command performance booking as they're brought back by popular demand by the good people of the South Bay area and they'll be there all through the gala holiday season coming up. Might be wise to make reservations for this one.

WRAY'S RESTAURANT on Crenshaw in Gardena are presenting their great Tuesday Special again! It's the Roast Prime Rib of Beef at a dollar eighty-nine and gives you a choice of soup, salad or juice.

This is the spot, you know, that goes in for so many specials and each one is equally delightful to the palate. Take that Monday Salisbury Steak for example. There's a baked potato along with it plus hot roll and butter and goes off at 99 cents. Then there's the Sunday special for the whole family of Old Fashioned Stewed Chicken with Egg Dumpling at one twenty-nine.

There's another family nite special Wednesday and Thursdays from 5 'til 9 p.m. when they put out the Spaghetti on an "all you can eat" basis with all the goodies that go along with such fare and it'll cost you 99 cents. And the biggest Hot Fudge Sundaes in town!

It all happens at Wray's Restaurant on Crenshaw, just inside Gardena. There's drive-in service available here, too.

Bud Peterson (now wait a minute — is that "sen" or "son" . . . ? Gonna get it now when Bud sees that, no matter which way it is!) dropped by the office the other day to let us know what's coming up at his Radium Drive-In Theatre for the next couple of weeks.

We'll just give it to you one at a time so you won't get confused. Following the current offering of "Hour of the Gun" and "The Spirit is Willing" Wednesday through Saturday, followed by "Rough Nite in Jericho" and "The Perils of Pauline" (HEY! We remember that kid from away back!), it's to be "Dr. Zhivago" coming in and will run from the 20th thru the 26th. How's that grab you? Not bad fare being offered for your entertainment at The Radium.

Slipped on by The Red Onion on Silver Spur Road in Peninsula Center one nite last week to see what was going on and would you believe? The same fine duo are still regaling the patrons of this



THE WILD ONES . . . They're the Wilder Brothers, brought back to the Galley West by popular demand, opening Tuesday, Dec. 19. Shown above it's Warner on the big horn, Walt in back of him, and George on the little job. They'll be in for an indefinite booking.

fine Mexican restaurant. They're The Tepeyac Duo every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nite.

They've also got that giant cocktail hour awaiting your pleasure from toodles-evening. All this, not to mention the excellent Sonora style Mexican food and the pleasant surroundings and service that Bart Earl's gals and guys presents for you hungry folk. Oh sure, Jose's still there as is the other Jose. That's "Socio" and "Limpio" respectively. Good guys, tho and highly efficient bartenders. Why not g'wan up and get acquainted with a bunch of nice people and equally nice food and beverage.

Would you believe there's a little (LITTLE!!!) spot over on Hawthorne Blvd. that is run by a pair of real and good old friends by the names of Pete and Anne Petroff? Well please do believe it they are real, good and old friends. . . not only from here but they're good friends to all and sundry who find their way to the BBQ Pete Restaurant in Inglewood.

Okay, now. When you think of the word "spare" you probably think immediately of "something to spare" — like a spare tire, or something like that.

But have you ever thought of having a "spare rib" so to speak? No! And especially if you had a spare rib you'd like to have barbecued?!? That practice went out of vogue during the pioneer days.

Now, however, there are BBQ'd Spareribs available all over town and noone thinks anything of it . . . unless, of course they've had them at BBQ Pete.

That's kind of a round-about-way of getting to the point but you'll have to admit, if you've ever had 'em at BBQ Pete, it was worth the trip. But don't let just the spare-ribs stop you there at a hundred and eleventh and Hawthorne Blvd. — swing with some of that fine barbecued chicken, too. You can't go wrong. Quality, quantity or price. Y'all come!

**DAILY SPECIALS**  
• CHOICE PRIME RIB OF BEEF •  
• TOP SIRLOIN • FILET MIGNON  
• CHARBROILED

**JOHNNY HOOVER AND THE HENCHMEN**  
Featuring Ivy Black  
"Sex on the Sax"

Reservations Now Accepted for  
**GALA NEW YEARS EVE PARTY**  
No Cover • Open House • No Minimum

Open Sunday **THE San Franciscan** Open Sunday  
**RESTAURANT & COCKTAIL LOUNGE**  
2520 SEPULVEDA BLVD., TORRANCE DA 5-5231  
Corner of Sepulveda & Crenshaw

**GALLEY WEST**  
AT MARINELAND OF THE PACIFIC  
... more than just a restaurant

For Dancing and Listening  
**THE BILL PLUMMER FREEWAY TRIO**  
Tuesday Thru Sunday

BANQUET FACILITIES TO 250  
WEDDING RECEPTIONS  
Company Parties • Club Groups  
Fashion Show Thursday Noon

FOR RESERVATIONS TELEPHONE 377-7877  
OPERATED BY INTERSTATE HOSTS, INC.

**DRIVE-IN ROADIUM THEATRE**  
2500 Redondo Bch. Blvd. Gardena • 324-2664

Dec. 13-14-15-16  
"HOUR OF THE GUN"  
Plus  
"THE SPIRIT IS WILLING"

Dec. 17-18-19  
"ROUGH NITE IN JERICHO"  
Plus  
"THE PERILS OF PAULINE"

"DR. ZHIVAGO"  
Starts Dec. 20 Thru Dec. 24

**La Ronda** proudly presents  
**LAS POSADAS**  
Through Dec. 24  
Reservations Suggested  
652-0774  
Your Singing Host  
**BEN CRUZ**

**MARIACHI FIESTA**  
Wed., Fri., Sat. Nites  
828 So. Robertson Blvd. (Bet. Wilshire & Olympic) Beverly Hills

AN ADVENTURE IN DINING FOR THE WHOLE TRIBE  
Special Dinners for Little Braves and Squaws  
High Chairs for Papooses

**Smith Ponce INDIAN VILLAGE RESTAURANT**  
LUNCHEON • DINNER POW WOW ROOMS • FIREWATER  
Open Daily from 11:30 A.M. Telephone: 378-9263  
4020 PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY • TORRANCE

**PIZZA PALACE**  
FUN ★ FUN ★ FUN  
TORRANCE GARDENA  
348 SEPULVEDA BLVD 3400 CRENSHAW BLVD

**The Tea House**  
Superb Cantonese Cuisine  
APPEARING NITELY  
**THE HAWAIIAN MONDAY THRU SATURDAY**

By Popular Demand Every Monday and Tuesday  
**HAWAIIAN NITE**

Family style dinners from \$1.85  
EXOTIC POLYNESIAN COCKTAILS  
Entertainment Mon. thru Sat. Nites in the cocktail lounge  
Acres of free parking in front and rear  
PHONE 326-5420  
23318 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance (E. Blk. of Pacific Coast Hwy. 101)

**TUESDAY SPECIAL ROAST PRIME RIB OF BEEF**  
Choice of Soup, Salad or Juice  
**\$1.89**  
**WRAY'S RESTAURANT**  
15421 CRENSHAW — GARDENA — 772-4057

**DINE - DANCE - ROMANCE**  
• An INTIMATE spot for twosomes, foursomes and lonesomes.  
• A GALA spot for parties.  
• A SUPERIOR spot for banquets and conventions

DINNERS FROM \$2.95

Fashion Shows Wednesdays at Noon  
Dancing 9:00-1 Except Sunday

**"Leany for Leo's RAMADA INN"**  
4111 PACIFIC COAST HWY. TORRANCE 378-8511

**FISHERMAN'S HAVEN**  
Fresh Oysters and Clams on the Half Shell  
MANY OTHER SEAFOOD SPECIALTIES

LUNCH • DINNER COCKTAILS

at Fisherman's Wharf Redondo Beach  
FR. 9-1477

Dancing & Entertainment Nightly  
in the sky-high  
**Penthouse Lounge**  
**CHARLES AMATO TRIO**

Ample FREE Self-Parking  
**INTERNATIONAL HOTEL** Phone 670-9000  
Opposite entrance to L. A. International Airport

**The Marquis RESTAURANT**  
Continental & American Cuisine  
8240 Sunset Strip / Hollywood 656-1313

NO COV. NOW! ALL NEW SHOW! NO MIN.  
CANTONESE AND MANDARIN DINNERS • HOLIDAY RESERVATIONS SUGGESTED  
**MARTIN DENNY**  
3901 PACIFIC COAST HWY. TORRANCE 378-8358 CLOSED MONDAYS  
LATITUDE 20

WONDERFUL BARBECUE  
COVERED IN PETE'S OWN TEMPTING BBQ SAUCE  
BEAUTIFUL NEW COCKTAIL LOUNGE  
COFFEE SHOP • GARDEN ROOM

TAKE OUT • RIBS • CHICKEN  
SHORT RIBS • STEAK • FISH  
PIZZA • MEXICAN FOOD • SPAGHETTI

**Pete**  
11109 HAWTHORNE BLVD. INGLEWOOD—PHONE 678-9957  
SINCE 1947 DAILY 11 TO 11—FRI. & SAT. TILL 1 A.M.

**MEXICAN FOOD SONORA STYLE**  
Served Seven Days a Week  
GIANT COCKTAIL HOUR 2 TO 7  
**RED ONION**

The **TEPEYAC DUO**  
THURS., FRI. & SAT.  
27736 Silver Spur Road  
Rolling Hills Estates — 377-5660

**Kyoto**  
1888 So. Western Ave., Gardena PA. 1-347 and 327-7811